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he borrowed much, he knew much from actual observations, realizing that Greenland was a vast country, across the western ocean and associated with a continent. Our conclusion is, that Mr. Lucas, if he intends to hold the ground, must restudy the whole subject, and fairly meet the issues, a few of which, in this too brief article, are now pointed out. For ourselves, from material now at command, we could make a stronger argument against Zeno than our author has, though we fear that in the face of opposing facts, of a solid character, the result would not offer a satisfactory proof of the charge, that Zeno the Younger was guilty of an impudent forgery.

B. F. DE COSTA.

Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers, published by the Society of The Colonial Dames of America. Edited by STANISLAUS MURRAY HAMILTON. Vol. I., 1752-1756. (Boston and New York : Houghton, Mifflin and Co. 1898. Pp. xxi, 395.)

THE Society of The Colonial Dames of America has issued the first volume of the *Letters to Washington*, and proposes to continue the series until the period of the Revolution is reached. It is to be hoped that no such limit will be maintained. Nothing that the society can do will better justify its existence, or prove more grateful to all interested in American history, than to publish the entire series of letters to Washington, now in the Department of State. The field is exceedingly rich, practically untouched, and is essential to a proper understanding of the man and of his time. We would go further, and collect all letters to Washington to be found in other collections, public and private, and so make the publication more complete, more approaching a finality. The society deserves all praise for its patriotic undertaking, and as the book is not to be issued in a limited edition, it is within the reach of all willing to pay the somewhat stiff price.

The manner in which the volume has been edited by Mr. S. M. Hamilton calls for some comment, if only to serve as a note of warning. The limits of an editor's functions are not fixed, but depend much upon personal qualities. Certain features may be laid down as generally demanded. The text must be accurate, and as the writer made it. Doubtful points are to be explained in notes or made clear by insertion of bracketed words. Non-essentials, such as a chance dash or dot, or the use of a dash for a period, may be disregarded, just as a blot, a scrawl or a flourish may be passed over. Capitals and abbreviations are interesting from the study of character they permit; but inserted words may be embodied in the text, and altered words, unless they materially altered the original meaning, may be omitted. A number of such general rules may be framed, and more will suggest themselves to any one familiar with manuscript material. The principal object to be attained is a clear text.

It is with regret, therefore, that it becomes necessary to point out how much below this object the work of Mr. Hamilton proves. He

gives the impression of being a careful and most minute editor, even seeking to reproduce in type the little oddities of writing encountered. The task is an impossible one, and the attempt destroys the symmetry of the page. So many of Washington's correspondents were illiterate men, or soldiers more fitted to use the gun than the quill, that the vagaries of stroke are beyond imitation, and really mean nothing. A dozen photographic reproductions would be far more instructive than all the dots, dashes, brackets and signs used by Mr. Hamilton. This frequent resort to symbols is confusing, as the dots are used where no words are omitted, and the brackets occur where no words have been inserted. Unfortunate, too, is the use of the caret and inserted words, for much space is thus wasted and the appearance of the page is seriously marred.

Apart from these mistakes on the mechanical side, we have much to say on the faults of the text, a far more weighty charge to bring against the editor. The curiously close following of pen-points would lead one to expect that at least the words were correctly printed—as written; but this expectation is disappointed so often that serious doubt must apply to the entire text as printed. A few instances are cited, without any attempt to arrange them under different descriptions of error. P. 12, "I have seen a breviate comission" should read "I have sent." P. 15, Col. John Thornton should be Thornton or Thoroton, though proper names are usually carelessly written in the manuscripts. P. 17, Monacatootha could hardly have been "agreed friend" to the English, but was more likely to be "a good or great friend." P. 114, Triplep should be Triplett, and on p. 121, Walkin's Ferry should be Watkin's, an error repeated on pp. 129 and 136. On this last page Talmuth occurs for Falmuth. P. 136 has Deheysen for Deheyser, a name of a dancing master and deserter, one not likely to be unknown. P. 138, the P. A. should be P. H. P. 140, Conigockicg is a remarkable printing of Conigochieg; and Vaumeters on the same page should be Vanmeters. On p. 160 "esputed" should be "expected." P. 165 has "Car^r on the N first cost," where it should probably read "Cur^r on their." What is the Grass-Guard mentioned on page 142? Conjecture fails to explain the reference to the Ciprian Dame (p. 39) and to XVIII f. f. D. (p. 329). The P. L. on p. 334 must be intended for L^d L., *i. e.*, Lord Loudoun, but the solitary letter between lines 3 and 4 on p. 224 baffles the reader. On p. 358 prenum stands for premium, and the "small panel" mentioned on p. 162 must be a parcel.

These are but samples of the errors due to careless reading of the manuscripts or careless proof-reading. So many of them are unnecessary and misleading that we have dwelt upon this side of the publication in the hope that greater care and a more particular attention to essentials may be given in the volumes to be issued. The contents of the letters speak for themselves, and are full of touches of a personal and historical character. But the full value of these papers cannot be developed unless the editing is improved.

WORTHINGTON CHAUNCEY FORD.